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THE FLYER

Salisbury University's student voice

VOLUME 46, ISSUE 3

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FREE

Fight Against ISIS: One ROTC Student's Perspective



Salisbury University submitted Photo

Roberts seeks to graduate from the ROTC at SU into being an officer for the military.

BY KOBIAZOULAY

Staff Writer

Junior Cody Roberts is not your average student at Salisbury University.

Roberts enlisted into the Army Reserve right out of high school while he was going to community college and now is a part of SU's Reserve Officers Training Corps program in order to become an officer in the military after he graduates. If all goes according to plan, he will become a Second Lieutenant in the army.

When he was younger, Roberts wanted to be a police officer, following in the footsteps of his father who was an officer in Baltimore County.

As he became older though, he realized he wanted to help his country, but on a much larger scale.

"I joined the army in order to serve the country and ensure justice for the world through America's version of justice," Roberts said.

Roberts began his military career in 2012 when he went to basic combat training in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, from which he graduated with honors.

He then went on to advanced individual training as a carpentry and masonry specialist at Fort Gulfport, Mississippi, where he also graduated with honors.

Roberts has served for the 358th Engineering Company of the United States Army Reserves for the past three years.

Roberts says he owes a lot of his personal growth to his time in the military.

"My past three years with this unit have been very influential to my development as a soldier and as a leader," he said. "My time serving in the military has emboldened me to reach far with my career goals, including my choice to leave behind the life of an enlisted soldier and pursue that of a commissioned officer."

Roberts is a political science major at SU and has no shortage of political opinions, especially where the military is concerned.

"Personally, I think the Iraq war was a bit of a fraudulent event," he said.

Roberts went on to explain that American

political officials used false accusations that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction and Saddam Hussein being involved with Al-Qaeda in order to start the war in the first place.

Despite the fraudulent beginning to the war, he praises the fact that the United States took Saddam Hussein out of power; but, he does not agree with how America left the country after the war ended.

"When we left, we didn't leave them the proper tools to maintain democracy," Roberts said. "It sort of fell into shambles, leading to today's example that is ISIS, controlling most of Northern and Western Iraq."

Roberts believes that ISIS could plan an attack against United States soil, as well.

"The international community needs to place ISIS high on their list of priorities," he said. "How much time will it take for the group to plan, rehearse and execute an act of terror on U.S. soil? I don't want the answer of that question to be found out, because that would mean that the actions of the international community were not enough to stop the spread of violence."

President Barack Obama submitted a draft of the Authorization for the Use of Military Force to Congress in early February. This means that military action more than the airstrikes that began towards the end of 2014 would be put into place, although Obama assured the country he did not want any boots on the ground.

There is bipartisan support for the measure, but the degree of power that the president should receive is still a contentious topic among lawmakers. Although a vote has not been held yet, the airstrikes against ISIS continue.

Although Roberts agrees with using military intervention to stop ISIS, he does not agree with Obama ordering airstrikes without congressional approval.

"While we are still waiting on congressional approval, we should help the coalition of states [fighting ISIS] by giving them supplies and sending in some of our troops, but only in a training role to support the forces that are already there."

Roberts went on to explain that American

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Madison Fox graphic

BY BRIA BAYLOR

Staff Writer

Women's History Month at Salisbury University was kicked off with a lecture by Mitzi Perdue, a powerful civic leader and philanthropist.

In the lecture, Perdue most prominently spoke of her authorship of her most recent book, "Tough Man, Tender Chicken: Business & Life Lessons from Frank." The book, a biographical work of her late hus-

band Franklin Perdue, reached No. 6 in the rankings for business biographies.

Perdue spoke in great length about the success of her husband and her own success.

Prior to the publishing of "Tough Man, Tender Chicken" she had written four books. In addition to her literary success, Perdue acts as the corresponding editor for the Academy of Women's Health and for

See HISTORY on Pg. 2



Reed Shelton Photo

Davis' store holds dozens of sneaker styles, priced anywhere from 50-500 dollars.

Deadstock SBY walks stylish sneakers downtown

BY REED SHELTON

Staff Writer

@ReedAShelton

With its walls lined in high-end sneakers of every imaginable color and hip-hop playing on the radio, Deadstock SBY almost seems out of place in Downtown Salisbury with its building nestled between the health department on one side and a defense attorney on the other.

Yet in spite of that incongruity, this is the rock upon which Drew Davis, Deadstock SBY's owner and operator, has decided to build his church. Members of his congregation are known as "sneakerheads" — fashionistas and collectors who have elevated footwear to a form of cultural art and expression.

"You can absolutely call it a cult following," Davis said. "The sneakerhead community — especially locally — is incredible. I've been so busy here with the store that I haven't even been able to launch my online store yet."

We've had a phenomenal first couple of months, and I don't see it slowing down."

The network and culture that Davis says Deadstock SBY connects to extends beyond footwear. Music, clothing, art and urban life play heavily into it, said Davis, who used to be a hip-hop artist and promoter here in his hometown of Salisbury.

But Davis said that he eventually hit a "glass ceiling" with his aspirations and wanted a new outlet to pursue his passions.

"I wanted to be a cultural influence on this area and that's where this came to fruition," he said. "It allows me to elaborate on what it was I was trying to build with hip-hop. But on the (Eastern) Shore, that's not necessarily as accepted as it is in D.C. or Baltimore, so we had to do it in a different way, and this is a way of putting it out there in a light that people are less wary of."

It never occurred to Davis to open up anywhere else; "this is my home, this is where I

See DEADSTOCK on Pg. 2

HISTORY

Continued from PAGE 1

Genetic Engineering & Biotechnology News (GEN).

She manages the philanthropy column for The Salisbury Daily Times, as well, where she presents a weekly spotlight of a local charity, sharing the needs of the charity to the public and giving "the public pat on the back to the charity's staff and volunteers".

Perdue has written over 1,600 articles as a national columnist for 22 years as well as produced more than 400 half-hour shows as a television hostess and producer.

She's a recipient of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, the Women's Day Magazine "Women Who Inspire Us Award" and the President's Award from the Maryland State Medical Society for Bettering the Health Care of Maryland Citizens.

Perdue says that she lives by her motto, success is not measured by what you can get, but what you can give.

"Mitzi Perdue shared some of her own story, about how she achieved her own success in communications," art history professor Victoria Pass said. "She spoke to the importance of having a community of other women supporting you in your endeavors, and to me that reflects the importance of Women's History Month."

Perdue shared insights in both her failures and those of her husband. She made it clear that even in the midst of many successes, it is probable to still encounter some failure. To end her lecture, Perdue shared her path from timidity to being an open speaker.

"For the first 35 years of my life, I hadn't done much with my education or career," Perdue said. "I was a rice farm owner for many years. It was great because for eight hours, I'd tend to the crops and didn't have to communicate much."

Following the lecture was a reception held in Great Hall of Holloway Hall. The audience was able to meet with Perdue and purchase a

copy of her book. \$7.50 of each book purchase was given back to the Salisbury Community in support of Salisbury University Center of Education.

"(Women's History Month) is a time when we celebrate the diverse lives and stories of women because those stories are the ones that inspire the next generation to go further, take bigger risks and imagine even bigger possibilities," Pass said. "Just like the women Perdue spoke about in her public speaking class, these women buck us up, and encourage us to take on ever bigger challenges."

The SU community will host multiple events on campus in honor of Women's History Month including Lunafest: Short Films By For About Women, on March 8, motivational leadership speaker Neen James on

March 10, a film viewing of "The Pill" on March 25, Women's History in the Making Panel on March 26 and a "Weaving the Story of Women's Lives" exhibition.

"I am most looking forward to our 'Women's History in the Making Panel' on March 26th," Chairman of the Women's History Month Committee Kara French said. "We have a great combination of guest panelists and people from SU who will be talking about the issues facing women and how women are making history now."

At the panel, the Supreme Court Hobby Lobby decision, HIV/AIDS activism, SU's promotion of gender equality and a student's experience as a transgender woman will be discussed.

"Women's History Month is important because so often we are ignorant of the contributions women have made to history, as well as their struggles and challenges," French said. "We get role models from the past who can inspire us in the present to make a better, more equitable future. Those role models are not just important for women, they are important for everyone."

DEADSTOCK

Continued from PAGE 1

feel I'm best fit to expand the vision I have for the area," he said.

Both other downtown businesses, as well as the city itself, have been enthusiastic and energetic about his concept.

Salisbury City Council President Jacob Day said that one of the exciting things about Deadstock SBY is not only that it is youth-oriented and bringing more young people downtown, but that it personifies what he hopes to see for the downtown area.

"You look at their model and it's really interesting," Day said. "It's a shoe store, but what's great is that it's a unique shoe store. It's created and owned by local people and, in other words, it embodies so much of what we're trying to accomplish in our city, which is to get young people to stay here, be successful economically and determine their own future."

3rd Friday—the monthly gathering of locals and artists along the nearby Downtown Plaza—is one avenue Deadstock SBY has

taken to reach out to the community, where they held an event featuring local disc jockeys and offering deals with other businesses in the downtown area.

Jamie Heater, head coordinator of 3rd Friday, believes what they offer is a perfect fit for what the event has always tried to create.

"What [Drew Davis] is passionate about is absolutely underrepresented, probably everywhere, and that's really what 3rd Friday is about," Heater said. "Giving local artists and crafters a true forum to get their word out and get their art out. It's a way for everyone finding a way to participate."

"They get it. It's about celebrating the things that are unique about Salisbury and unite people here."

Deadstock SBY is located at 100 East Main St., Suite 103, Salisbury.

March Smoothie Of The Month:

Irish Mint Smoothie

White chocolate, half and half, creme de menthe syrup, sweetened condensed milk, whipped cream all blended with crushed ice.

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~ Steamship Round with Merlot on Jus
~ Chicken Champaigne
~ Creamy Artichoke Lasagna
~ Duchess Style Potato Bake
~ Green Beans Almondine
~ Sweet Potato Biscuits
~ Dinner Rolls
~ Cinderella Cupcakes
~ French Silk Raspberry Pie Bars
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EDITORIAL

March, 10, 2015

Volume 46, Issue 3

Overheard:

If money weren't an object, what would you do for spring break? What are you actually doing?



"I would go to Cancun. For break I am going to be working a lot." - Noelle Wolfrom, junior



"I would love to go to Ibiza. I am actually going hiking in South Carolina, the beach in Florida, or working on my Honors thesis." - Katherine Stout, senior



"I would go to Cuba because trade just opened up there. I will be going home and enjoying time with my family, and going caving with the geography department during break." - Landon Grove, junior



"If money weren't an object I would go to Rome. I'm going to spend break reading Twilight as research for a paper on gender roles in vampire fiction." - Mary McKernan, sophomore

THE FLYER

EDITORIAL

Ten Tips for Likeability

BY BECKY MILLER

Staff Writer



Sometimes a person can be an object of indescribable hatred. Okay, maybe not hatred. Dislike, extreme dislike to the point where if given the chance I would probably punch you in the face and then laugh if you started bleeding.

There are some people that just deserve a little bit of pain. If you choose to be a misogynistic jerk, not to mention laughing when sexual assault is mentioned, you are not worth anyone's time or effort. Crawl back into the little hole you came out of and please hit your head on the way out.

soup kitchen or simply carrying a heavy box that some stranger was struggling with gains universe points. Plus, who can hate someone who helps a little old lady cross the street, right?

7. Practice good hygiene: Brush your teeth, shower on the regular, wear deodorant. Very few people appreciate bad breath or body odor.

8. When asking the question "How are you?" actually listen for the answer: This question has become a social convention and everyone is supposed to answer "fine" or "great" and then continue on with their days. Actually wanting to know about other's days makes them feel valued. Everyone just wants someone to care.

9. Do not give advice unless it is asked for: Being likeable will make you approachable. Sometimes people just need to vent and you pushing your opinions on them does not always help their situations. You are not all knowing, even if you think you are.

10. Do not make excuses: Take responsibility for your actions. The dog that you do not have in your college dorm room cannot eat your homework. If you have to take a test hung-over, that's your own fault for going out not your roommates for finding a party on a Thursday night.

These are just a few suggestions in improving your public image. If you want to improve your relationships with others, maybe give some of these a try.

OPPOSING VIEWS

Batman Ain't No Superhero

Damn it, Batman is a supethero

BY SHANNON WILEY

News Editor

@TheShannonWiley

There is a severe difference between being a hero as well as being "super"—as in cool or awesome—and being a superhero. In order to be the latter, there has to be something extraordinary about the person, and that is meant in the most literal way: to be much more than an ordinary human. Being rich and super good at karate just doesn't cut it.

In this way, neither Iron Man nor The Green Arrow suffice, either. For Iron Man—sorry, but having a super cool pacemaker just gives you an edge when you want to break the ice at parties. If you want to use your massive amounts of money to make your pacemaker into a super suit and save people's lives, I love you and that is awesome, but you are still not a superhero.

Arrow was trained by insanely impressive people, just like Batman was with the League of Shadows, and I would totally trust either with my life especially because they have cool gizmos and gadgets to help them out, but my friend is really good at Tai Kwon Do, too, and I'd feel just as safe walking around with him at night.

Also, if these two are superheroes, is James Bond a superhero, too? Because they essentially do the same thing the same way.

If we change the meaning of superhero to mean someone impressive who saves people's lives, then Batgirl (a.k.a. Oracle) should be on that list, as well, because she is super good with computers. Many of the lives saved by Batman can 100 percent be attributed to her figuring out some big problem. Without her intel, Batman's "super skills" would have been worthless.

Superman and Spiderman, on the other hand, are completely different. On his planet, Superman would not be a superhero because he is just like everyone else. However, being on Earth and having those capabilities that comes with being a Kryptonian makes him extraordinary. Pairing these abilities with his gallant acts, Superman is absolutely a superhero.

For Spiderman, although he was not born with his super-skills, he still is still extra-human; no one I know has ever climbed up a wall like a tarantula.

This trend continues with Wonder Woman who can fly, the Thing and the Hulk who similarly turn into a massive force of rock and muscle, the Invisible Woman (enough said), the Human Torch (again, self explanatory) and the Flash who can break the sound barrier with his speed. All of these incredible characters are far more than just people who had some special technology manufactured in order to fulfill some desperate act of charity.

Just like the discrepancy between superheroes and heroes that are super, the same goes for super-villains and villains that are simply insane.

For example, the Joker is scary as hell and I would avoid him at all costs, but besides that demonically genius mind and those nasty facial modifications, he is just like you and me.

The same is true for Dead Shot who is comparable to Annie Oakley, Two-Face who belongs in a support group to work out some of his issues and Lex Luther and Kingpin who are again just rich, strong and smart.

Ra's al Ghul, on the other hand, is a super-villain because he is not only dead, but also immortal. Other villains who can classify themselves as "super-villains" include Magneto who is a mutant who can control metals, Doctor Octopus who is half man-half machine and Sandman who can turn himself into a sandstorm and is almost uncatchable.

Even Death Stroke can count as a super-villain because he underwent experimental treatment that made him extraordinarily strong and fast. This is especially true if we are talking about the CW's Arrow version of Death Stroke, who is invincible due to his injections of Mirakuru.

Here's the meat and potatoes: super means something when in conjunction with occupations like "hero" and "villain," and we can't just be throwing those terms around. If a helpful lifesaver is going to be classified as a superhero, or a criminal mastermind wants to be in the ranks with super-villains, they better damn well show us something more than their wits and their bank accounts.

So you better believe, Batman ain't no superhero.

BY BJ DARDEN

Staff Writer

Over this past week I heard something so offensive and inaccurate that I have decided to vent my frustrations through the power of American English.

Someone—hint, hint the author of the article to my left—had the gall and audacity to claim that Batman isn't a superhero.

This isn't the first time that this claim has been made, and certainly will not be the last, but I thought it would be a good idea to address these claims.

While I am not very well versed in comic or superhero culture, I certainly do have a certain respect for the medium. I also do not allow my own ignorance to blind me, and I am sure anyone who is well versed in superhero culture will agree with me when I say that Batman is absolutely a superhero.

Some people say, "But he doesn't have superpowers! He can't be a superhero!"

Yes, they would be right that he does not have superpowers, he just has years upon years of intense martial arts training, as well as incredibly dense and astute detective skills. This isn't your little brother's karate class, it's the League of Shadows.

You don't just sign up and fill a waiver out to be a part of the League of Shadows. Batman had to find a rare flower, climb to a top of a mountain and then deliver said flower still intact.

After this he goes through months of intense training to master multiple forms of martial arts and heighten his senses. While this description tells how it happens in the movie "Batman Begins," every iteration has some intense story like this.

There is easily a grocery list's worth of things that makes Batman extraordinary, but at the end of the day, that's not what makes him a superhero.

What makes Batman a superhero is that he is willing to save the day which is something so many people aren't willing to do. The gadgets and hand to hand combat are cool, but they are nothing without the man inside the suit who wants to deliver justice.

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THE FLYER

EDITORIAL



BY BECKY MILLER

Staff Writer

Sometimes a person can be an object of indescribable hatred. Okay, maybe not hatred. Dislike, extreme dislike to the point where if given the chance I would probably punch you in the face and then laugh if you started bleeding.

There are some people that just deserve a little bit of pain. If you choose to be a misogynistic jerk, not to mention laughing when sexual assault is mentioned, you are not worth anyone's time or effort. Crawl back into the little hole you came out of and please hit your head on the way out.

I have never claimed to be perfect and there are people out there who dislike me as well. Heck, sometimes I want to punch myself in the face. What keeps us from acting on these inhibitions? Better yet, what underlying primitive instinct encourages them in the first place?

Likeability is now determined by how well a person can "click" with others. There is a balance between being bland and lacking any personality and voicing opinions that make others instinctually want you knocked out with a sucker-punch to the jaw. Here are a few suggestions for avoiding the indifference, but mostly the wrath of others:

1. Embrace the power of positive thinking: This can sometimes be difficult, but will help with your relationship with yourself and the projection of self you give to others. No one likes a negative person filled with bitter feelings and not a happy thought in his body.

2. In conversation, avoid politics like the plague: Do not decide that the lunch table is a good place to talk about abortion or healthcare or waterboarding in Guantanamo Bay. Someone is going to disagree with you and having heated conversations is not really the best way to make friends.

3. Shine with confidence, or at least try: Even if you are having a bad day, smile at everyone. It may not be scientifically proven yet, but smiles are contagious and make the world a happier place. Plus, the physical act of smiling will release endorphins into your own body and make you happier.

4. Make fun of yourself, but not too much: The ability to laugh at yourself keeps the target from other people, but still allows you to be the life of the party. However, doing this too much can get annoying if you are not careful about timing.

5. When someone is talking to you, pay complete attention: Put your phone down and make eye contact. Ignoring others—or looking like you are ignoring them—is not any way to gain affection from anyone.

6. Volunteer whenever the opportunity arises: Helping others, whether it is serving at the

Preserving the internet

BY REED SHELTON

@ReedAShelton

Staff Writer

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) deserves nothing less than a standing ovation for its decision to uphold the call for "Net Neutrality," a decision that will stave off the greedy machinations of corporate Goliaths that would have favored investors over consumers and monopolies over competition.

With their decision, the FCC have hopefully ensured that the open and even playing field that has defined the internet since its inception will remain. For those of us that consider the information superhighway one of humanity's greatest achievements alongside agriculture, antibiotics and aerospace technology this is a tremendous victory.

With their decision, the FCC have hopefully ensured that the open and even playing field that has defined the internet since its inception will remain. For those of us that consider the information superhighway one of humanity's greatest achievements alongside agriculture, antibiotics and aerospace technology this is a tremendous victory.

What the telecommunications giants like Comcast, Time Warner and Verizon wished to do was nothing short of the behavior of cartels. In exchange for paying premiums, websites would have prevented their data from being throttled en route to their viewers—this is, the giants were not offering new "fast lanes" at all, but instead using strong-arm tactics to turn a profit via the threat of being thrown into a slow lane.

Behavior such as that is the very antithesis of the free-market values that these corporations were claiming as the basis of their motivation. That claim is not just laughable, but utterly absurd as the end result would have been the inability of consumers to easily access smaller business startups or non-profit websites unable to afford these premiums.

The internet has become a fundamental public interest, as important as the telephone, a virtual necessity to an informed, efficient life in the twenty-first century. We communicate with it. We keep in touch with it. We bank and shop with it. We use it to better understand politics and the world around us, and for research to advance the sciences. Sometimes we even relax and goof off with it.

It is not for those that seek to increase their already astronomical profit margin to dictate our ability to access any tiny fraction of it, and that sentiment is the basis of what has been

come known as Net Neutrality.

Comcast—lobbied heavily against Net Neutrality and the vast swath of public opinion in favor of regulation—has already announced its intention to sue the FCC, claiming that the agency overreached its authority. Yet while Comcast says it has no interest in throttling or blocking data transmissions, they have already done so on multiple occasions and been punished by the FCC for it.

Verizon has said exactly the same in the past, and has argued in court that they have a First Amendment right to block competitors' websites.

No, you didn't misread that. Verizon actually used the First Amendment to justify their profit-driven desire to prevent you from seeing information put onto the internet. Let that sink in for a moment.

Should you be a Verizon subscriber, have to suffer through unbearably slow Netflix speeds because Netflix didn't pay extra to Verizon? Of course not. Netflix, like any other web service or site, should transmit data to you at the full speed your connection is capable of without interference. Yet that is precisely what happened last year before Netflix agreed to pay Verizon's ransom in exchange for providing quality streaming movies to its customers.

This is precisely the sort of behavior that supporters of Net Neutrality have feared and fought against.

"Federal regulation," has become something of a dirty word to suggest these days. Libertarian, laissez-faire capitalists—sometimes genuine, sometimes just wearing a disguise—have argued for a hands-off approach for government, saying that the market should work these things out on their own. Sometimes, that is an agreeable notion.

Not this time.

This time, the FCC has said, in effect, "The internet will remain as it is and always has been."

These regulations will actually prevent anyone from sculpting the internet into something that has proven nearly perfect from the beginning. The government hasn't changed anything. It has simply said that no one else can or should, and anyone that has grown up with the internet should agree with that.

of schools that implements a tiered pricing court-storming protocol. There should be a straightforward protocol nationwide in all college and high schools.

Sometimes the fines aren't even enough to enforce safety either.

Last year, University of South Carolina President Harris Pastides said once he realized they were going to be fined for not following protocol after beating the University of Kentucky, he ran down onto the court and "enjoyed every dollar."

Not even university presidents are taking the issue seriously.

There have already been several ugly court storming incidents that have not garnered the same attention as the Kansas State incident.

Last year a New Mexico State player started throwing punches at Utah Valley fans who stormed the court and in 2004 Tucson High player Joe Kay, a Stanford recruit, suffered a torn rotator cuff and a stroke after getting stomped on by students, which has left him

Exchange teacher brings music to SU

BY MARISSA MEEHAN

Staff Writer

Vendim Thaqi started his music journey when he was fifteen years old. He was born in Kosovo and moved throughout Europe with his family, and lived in Belgium before coming to the States. Within the past nine years Thaqi has traveled and performed at an estimated 70 events where he has performed everything from rock to a classical piece in a University concert to a wedding with another instrumentalist/singer. He is currently a guitar teacher here at Salisbury University through the artist in residence program. Thaqi has been practicing with the guitar since 2010 and started as an electric guitar player in 2005.

Q: How did you end up at Salisbury University?

A: I got (my Bachelor's degree) in music performance and education. I know I had time between getting my Bachelor's degree and Master's degree and wanted to do something during this time. I plan on getting my Master's in the same area. My professor back at home has known Dr. Cummings for about nine years and suggested I come to Salisbury University. Dr. Cummings created the artist in residence program which brings gifted international musicians to the school to work with music students and is sponsored by the music department and Center for International Education.

Q: Do you like it at Salisbury so far?

A: Yes, I like it so far! I have been here about a month and I've had concerts that I have performed at and I enjoy meeting new people. Everyone has been friendly to me and it feels like a small family. The campus is a good size and I see people I know when I walk around.

Q: What is your favorite type of music?

A: It depends. It would have to be between Rock and Classical. I can also go to a club and enjoy the music there. I started guitar because of AC/DC when I was 15 years old and at 16 years old I decided to try classical guitar. I also like Green Day, Metallica, Billy Talent, Foo Fighters, and Triggerfinger.

Q: What motivates you to do what you do?

A: It is my love for the guitar and music. When you want to work with your hobby

and make it your profession you need to love it and be dedicated. It is not only the fun parts, but also the difficult parts like practicing. My motivation is my love for the guitar and teaching.

Q: What are some of your goals for yourself?

A: It is good to have realistic goals and to walk step-by-step. I don't think I want to be only a soloist because you have to travel all the time and it is hard to have a family. My goal now would be to start my Master's and to continue teaching.

Q: Have you been in any bands or are you involved in one now?

A: I am not in a band in Salisbury. I am in the band "Autumn Colours" back in Belgium. It is a rock band trio where I sing and play the guitar.

Q: What are your plans for "Autumn Colours" when you return home?

A: When I get back we are planning to play some shows in the summer time and maybe organize a small tour, but it's still just an idea. We have one gig confirmed in the end of June. Since I have my master's audition I will try to play two to three shows the weekend that I get back with the classical guitar as a soloist. I also have two concerts with Orchestra scheduled in October in Belgium and Germany.

Q: Any new songs in the works?

A: I think we're going to record about four new songs and eventually more but we'll see about that.

Q: What challenges do you face when teaching?

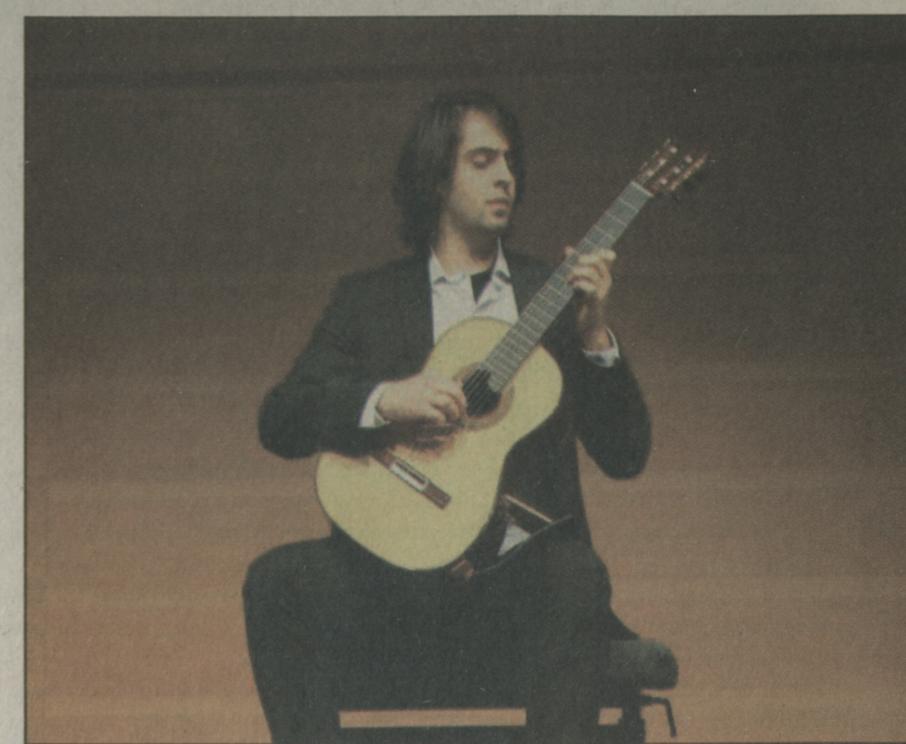
A: When you teach it is hard to keep up the practice. You have to practice every day. I know many musicians including myself that bring their instruments on the road with them to practice. When you do not practice for a week you lose some things you learned.

Q: What are some of the rewards of teaching?

A: It is always a good feeling when you play for yourself and you reached your goal. It is also rewarding when you give other people the joy to listen or play music.

Q: What motivates you to do what you do?

A: Concerts led me to other concerts and



Submitted photo

meeting other people which led me to teaching students. It is a chain reaction and everything I do built me up for where I am meant to be.

Q: Do you have anyone that deeply influenced you?

A: Yes! All of my teachers taught me so much and have a great personality. Every one was special and contributed to my musical growth. Their names are "Skooob" from Scotland, Hélène Dütz from Belgium, Professor Hans-Werner Huppertz from Germany and now Dr. Danielle Cummings from Canada, who is the teacher at SU.

Q: What is Guitar the Gallery and how do you perform?

A: Danielle Cummings is the director of the Guitar in the Gallery series; she gets professional guitarists to perform in the Fulton Hall. I did it as part of my artist in residence. My performance went well. The room was almost filled. As a musician you are always your worst critic and I know I can improve. In the end I got a standing ovation but I was unprepared. I told them to sit down which was very unprofessional.

Q: What goes through your mind when you are on stage?

A: When I play I think of the music and sometimes my mind wonders off. I have to tell myself to concentrate myself on the

music I am playing at the moment.

Q: Are there any lessons you want to pass along to other musicians?

A: I want to encourage my students to listen to music. Just the practice can be hard and listening to music helps. I want them to listen and be aware of what they are trying to play. I try to get my students not to lose the focus on the music when they are struggling.

Thaqi has had an exciting journey so far, and it is just the beginning for him. He will be at SU for the rest of the spring semester, and will be at the 7th Annual Guitar Festival and Competition held on April 24 and 25, 2015. The festival is dedicated for people who want to have fun playing and learning the guitar. At the festival Thaqi will be giving a workshop on playing the guitar. His friendly personality and strong will power will bring him to his dreams and his extraordinary teaching ability will change the lives of all his students.

Q: What are some of the rewards of teaching?

A: It is always a good feeling when you play for yourself and you reached your goal. It is also rewarding when you give other people the joy to listen or play music.

Q: Do you have any life changing experiences that led you to where you are today?

A: Concerts led me to other concerts and

outside for most of the year, there is no government regulation of the term so the label may be unsubstantiated. Once again, there is no third party auditing for these farmer's claims.

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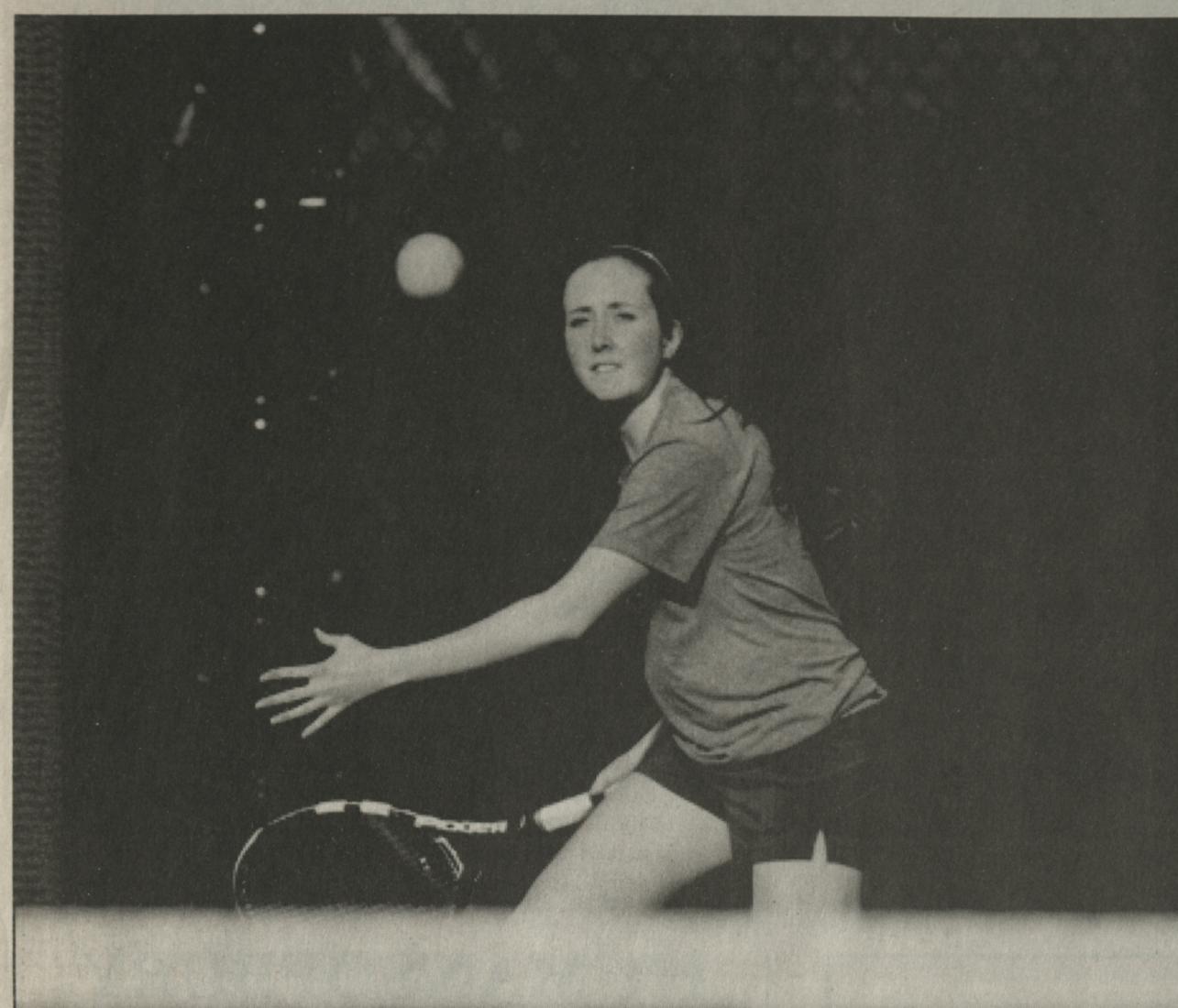
Human of the Week:

SEND:

Human:

Across the pond

Foreign exchange student favors American sports culture



Submitted photo from SU Athletics

Exchange student Charlotte Walker plays for her club team in Scotland and for SU. Since SU is a Division III program and does not offer scholarships, she is eligible to play.

BY MITCHELL NORTHAM
Sports Editor
@primetimeMitch

Sport is a universal language. Whether it's played on a court or field, indoors or outdoors, the rules are the same no matter where you go.

One thing that can be different, however, is the culture and lifestyle around the sport. Sometimes a sport can be more fun if played in a different place and being a part of a team can help change that.

That's one thing that Charlotte Walker is learning as a member of the Salisbury University women's tennis team.

Walker is a foreign-exchange student at Salisbury University this semester through a program at her home school at Sterling University in Scotland. She picked Salisbury because they had her major — accounting — and because they had a tennis team.

However, Walker didn't anticipate how different an American tennis program would be from that at her home.

She also didn't anticipate how much she would enjoy being a part of the American sporting culture.

"We are all part of a team, we train together, we run together and I absolutely love it here," Walker said. "It's a different mentality and I love that it's compulsory and the coaches are so enthusiastic and that's one thing we don't have at home."

Walker has been on the tennis courts since she was nine-years-old, but in Scotland if you're on the tennis team it isn't a commitment like it is here in America, and you don't feel like a member of a team.

"I was the captain when I was home, but here you really feel a part of a team whereas at home it just feels like a group of friends getting together to play tennis," Walker said. "Here the team is so important and you want each other to win and you want the team to win."

Here at Salisbury, the tennis roster is made up of nine women and they all travel to the games. In Scotland, games are only played on Wednesday's, and if you have a test or studies or anything else going on, you don't have to go to the match.

"It's not compulsory," Walker said. "Sport is such a huge part of American culture and at home sports are only that big if you're on a scholarship and my university doesn't offer any female scholarships for tennis."

Luckily for Walker, Salisbury University — as a Division III program — doesn't offer any athletics scholarships. If they did, she wouldn't have been able to play here by NCAA rules.

From the first match to now, the

pair has developed a strong chemistry even though they haven't been together for long.

"We know where we're going and we're working on using signals more now," Lohn said. "Her strength is more at the net while I play back on the baseline so we balance each other out well."

"I think doubles is nice because you have somebody there on the court with you to speak to and work out. Doubles is very tactical," Walker said. "We get along very well and we've gotten pretty close."

Lohn and Walker have performed well as doubles so far this season — posting a 4-1 record and helping the tennis team as a whole reach a record of 5-1. Walker also plays singles and has a record of 3-2 so far, but is improving and has the opportunity to move up in seeding as the season progresses.

"I envision her being much higher in the lineup," Halfpap said. "She's still getting a feel for everything. The girls talk about rivalries and stuff and she doesn't really know what that means. She just hears it and knows that it's important so she gets a little nervous about certain stuff. Now that she's a little more acclimated the nerve aspect will start to go away."

One adjustment that the team and Walker have had to make is adjusting to her accent and the team's American ones. Walker just recently understood their pre-game chant: "1-2-3! Gulls!"

"Honestly, until about two weeks ago I thought they were saying goals. As in like, we're working towards goals," she said. "Sometimes they don't understand me because we have a really fast accent so I have to slow it down, but not so much, it's still English."

The rest of the girls on the team have tried to impersonate Walker's accent too, but most have failed.

"The first day we met her she was super outgoing and we all knew she was going to be a good addition to the team and it's continued to be that way," sophomore Claudia Lohn said.

When practice started for the tennis team, Halfpap tried to pair Walker up with several different doubles partners, but her play didn't seem to mesh with anyone else's right away until she paired with Lohn.

"He started partnering me and Charlotte up together a lot more during practice so I started to get a feel of how to play with her," Lohn said. "We balance each other out really well. We play more of the same and we hit more hard and hit more flat balls."

because she played for a club team in Scotland.

Still, even after Walker had made her decision to come to Salisbury for a semester through the exchange program at Sterling, there was no guarantee she would be on the team.

"Originally it was just an e-mail that I got from her, like a feeler, and she just wanted to know if she could hit with the girls and train, not necessarily 'Can I be on the team?'" Head Coach Randy Halfpap said. "I didn't really think of it as a recruiting situation, everything was sort of, matter of fact, in the beginning. I asked her if she would be interested in playing on the team if that was something that was even possible."

Halfpap and the athletics department worked through the NCAA eligibility requirements and paperwork and a few hours later, Walker was eligible to play for the Sea Gulls.

"Everything was good, so then I was like, alright, time to find out if she's any good," Halfpap said. Walker had a friend record her playing some on a cell phone and sent the video a little later in an e-mail to Halfpap. He liked what he saw and told her that there would be a spot for her.

"I made the decision where I said, if she's going to be on the team then she's going to be on the team," Halfpap said. "It wasn't going to be one of those things where she's there and I don't let her play."

"I had no idea how I would fit in because (Halfpap) had never seen me play before so I didn't know what to expect," Walker said. "So when I arrived I hit with a few of the girls before the semester started and they were like 'oh, you'll definitely fit in on the team. You're good.'"

The other girls on the team took to Walker right away and made her feel at home, something that at first she was nervous about and didn't know if she would fit in or not.

"The first day we met her she was super outgoing and we all knew she was going to be a good addition to the team and it's continued to be that way," sophomore Claudia Lohn said.

When practice started for the tennis team, Halfpap tried to pair Walker up with several different doubles partners, but her play didn't seem to mesh with anyone else's right away until she paired with Lohn.

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From the first match to now, the

Sea Gulls prepare for battle against Amherst in Sweet 16

BY MITCHELL NORTHAM
Sports Editor
@primetimeMitch

The Salisbury University women's basketball team is about to go to a place that it hasn't been to in over a decade.

This weekend, the No. 11 Sea Gulls will travel to Montclair State University to compete in the sectional semi-finals — also known as the Sweet 16 — of the NCAA Division III tournament. The Sea Gulls will face off on the hardwood against the No. 12 Amherst College Jeffs.

In their win against the Stockton University Ospreys on Saturday, the Sea Gulls played two solid halves of basketball and forced the opposition into 29 turnovers, but against Amherst, they will have to play a complete game from start to finish on both ends of the floor.

"I'd say we put two decent halves together, but in the next step playing against Amherst, we're really going to have to play 40 minutes," Sea Gulls' head coach Kelly Lewandowski said.

On Saturday, the Jeffs (25-3) took down New York University by a score of 70-47. For Amherst, their leading scorer was sophomore Ali Doswell who scored 22 points and dished out five assists in the victory.

Immediately after a win against Stockton on Saturday though, the Sea Gulls weren't focused on Amherst right away, but Lewandowski assured that when the time came to do battle, the maroon and gold would be ready.

"Honestly I have not even seen them yet," Lewandowski said of Amherst after the Sea Gulls' win over Stockton. "I know they crushed NYU tonight and that they're really talented and come from a really strong conference, but we'll be prepared."

The Jeffs are a young team with just two seniors compared to the veteran squad of the Sea Gulls with six seniors. The Sea Gulls score more points but allow more points too, but they also turn the ball over less than the Jeffs with just 14.7 per game compared to the 16.2 times that the Jeffs cough up possession.

The rebounding numbers between the two teams are similar, but one area where the Jeffs hold a distinct advantage is in blocked shots — averaging seven of them per game. That number is a direct reflection of the size advantage the Jeffs have as well, with five players on their roster who are over six feet tall, compared to just one for the Sea Gulls in freshman Josephine Noonan who only plays about five minutes per game.

While the inches don't match up well, the Sea Gulls have handled size this season. They were able to top a lengthy Mary Washington team for the CAC Championship and swept Christopher Newport this season that also sported six players over the six-foot mark.

The Sea Gulls held Stockton's six-foot-two-inch freshman forward Sasha Williams to just four points. The night before, Williams — the New Jersey Athletic Conference Defensive Player of the Year — nearly recorded a triple-double with 14 points, 11 rebounds and nine blocks.

The Sea Gulls' secret against these towering players is simple: don't be intimidated.

"We talk about playing against players like Sasha where, you either have to go at them, or go around them. There's no going over them," Lewandowski said. "When we start attacking we're a much better team. We've played girls like Sasha this season, I mean, Christopher Newport has Camry Green who is just as tall and bigger. These girls have experience going against tougher, taller, bigger players."

Against Stockton, Julia McLaughlin had 10 rebounds, while Lauren Rothfeld and Kathy Alborno came off the bench and fought for a combined 14 rebounds. The trio of forwards will be needed again against Amherst as the battle will likely be won on the boards against their forwards — Meredith Doswell and Megan Robertson.

As per usual though, if the Sea Gulls plan on advancing to the Elite 8 round of the tournament they'll need their A game from every player on the roster — most importantly from

SWEET 16

Continued from PAGE 8

starting senior guards Anna Hackett and Sarah Seipp. "That's something that has been pretty consistent for us all year," Lewandowski said. "Obviously Anna and Sarah have been our leading scorers so they are going to be the focus for other teams and defense is going to try and take them out, but the good thing is that we

have Lauren, and Kathy, and Melanie Moenak and Julia who have all stepped up at different times."

The Sea Gulls will take the court on Friday at 5:00 p.m. against Amherst and the winner will face either Montclair State or Bowdoin for a trip to the Final Four in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

TALE OF THE TAPE

SALISBURY UNIVERSITY VS AMHERST COLLEGE

27 - 2	Record	25 - 3
11	National Ranking	12
Won 5	Streak	Won 2
2 - 0	Record at Neutral Site	1 - 1
70.8	Points per Game	69.4
40.3	FG%	44.2
30.7	3PT%	35.7
41.1	Rebounds per Game	41.1
3.0	Blocks per Game	7.0
14.7	Turnovers per Game	16.2
58.3	PPG Allowed	49.9
37.0	OPP FG%	31.9
Anna Hackett 18.1 PPG	Leading Scorer	Ali Doswell 12.1 PPG
6	Seniors	2
1	Players Above 6'0	5

Madison Fox Graphic



Frances Clark photo
Sea Gulls celebrating their 61-54 win against Stockton Saturday.

Two CAC champs

A sit-down with SU Athletic Director, Dr. Michael Vienna

BY MITCHELL NORTHAM
Sports Editor
@primetimeMitch

Q: Two CAC titles in the same day is a big deal. What was your initial reaction when the women won their title?

A: We were thrilled to be able to host not only one, but two championship games. That was not only exciting for our men and women's basketball teams but for our student body, our faculty and our athletics department. You go into those games knowing that they're big games and that the other team is there for a reason as well and you hope to be able to win one, if not both. So of course, I was thrilled as I think our campus community was that we were able to get that first title after an excruciating two overtime periods. It was just a battle. It was gratifying and satisfying on many fronts to be able to come out and win any game like that, let alone a conference championship game.

Q: I saw you on the floor when the students rushed the court. What was that atmosphere like?

A: Well, we had anticipated that might happen if there was an exciting game and to be honest with you it had nothing to do with what's going on in the national media with what's happening at Kansas State and those things — in fact I was really oblivious to that. But we had an administrative meeting the day before and we talked about those possibilities and the mindset is that — and personally I am not opposed to rushing the court, I think that it's a cool collegiate thing — the important thing though is that it's truly a celebration for the victorious team and has nothing to do with the opponent. Because they're going to be lower low, so our mindset was as administrators was to get out on the floor and to make sure that Christopher Newport was able to get to their bench and I personally positioned myself between the bench and where the celebration was. I was pleased that it was a great post-game celebration and it was about us and it was very positive crowd. There were no instances that we had to be concerned about and I applaud our student body for how they conducted themselves.

Q: Coach Merkel gathered the team after the celebration to shake hands with Christopher Newport. How important was that?

A: There's a fine balance there. You want to be able to celebrate and I thought Coach Merkel did an outstanding job of handling that. It was a spontaneous celebration and it's not something you orchestrate so you want to be able to enjoy that moment, but there comes a point in time where you don't have your opponent sit there and watch that. You gather your team and do that appropriate handshake with good sportsmanship. Coach Merkel and his staff did an excellent job of that.

Q: The baseball, football and volleyball teams were there supporting the basketball teams on Saturday, but men's lacrosse has kind of, led the way in supporting other teams here. How important is that for athletes to support other athletes here?

A: I think it's good for whether it's each varsity team supporting one another or just students in general supporting other programs. I've seen where we have had a student athlete in a play and there are 20 football players in the front row. Now it's not a rah-rah type of thing with a play but they are there supporting. I will say that I thought Saturday's crowd was one of the best behaved that I have seen. I think it's great when you have large and enthusiastic crowd and I think it's important that they are positive.

Q: There were a few local high school basketball coaches who brought their players out to the games on Saturday. Is that something you want to see more of?

A: I think that they have done a good job of that. I have seen (Wicomico high head coach) Butch Weller at a number of games and I've seen some of the local coaches throughout the season and in the past. This was a big game so a few more people showed up and that's the way it is. We were fortunate on the men's side to have large crowds like that a few times in the 90's and in the 2000's on the women's side. So, you know, people can talk about marketing and things like that, but when you win games, people will show up.

Q: It's been sometime since both basketball programs have been this successful at the same time. Do you think that both of these coaches have the programs headed in the right direction?

A: Clearly, I mean, both head coaches are in their fourth season I don't think that in my 26 seasons here that we have had both teams in the NCAA tournament at the same time — except for the in the 95-96 season. Both coaches have worked very hard to reach this level of success and it's pleasing to see their hard work pay off.

Q: What were the games like in the 90's?

A: On the men's side it was very similar to what you saw on Saturday. It was all about Salisbury and there was a lot of positive cheering, but there was way more people. I mean, we had to lock down Maggs. It was about 800 more people that what you saw on Saturday for some of the games in 91-92 and in 95-96. Those were some great teams. The players would get under the bleachers and start their clapping and chants and the crowd would join in and we'd crank up the music and this place would rock.

Q: How happy are you for the players?

A: It's all about the student athlete. While winning is not the most important thing — because I think there is a lot of growth and development that happens as part of an athletics program — we still

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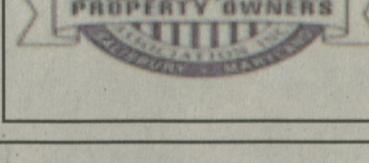


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